

DEPARTMENT OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS

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July 28, 2006

Dear Boating Stakeholder:

The Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) is conducting a stakeholder process to discuss whether California should require education or testing for boat operators. California law presently does not require a boat operator to pass a boating education test prior to operating a vessel.

DBW is neither supporting nor opposing a boating safety education law, but is facilitating a comprehensive discussion on the issue. The Department has enlisted the aid of an independent professional facilitator and a consultant to work with stakeholders to provide information and gather opinions and recommendations. If stakeholders come to a common vision for a boating safety education law, then legislation may be proposed in 2007.

We have scheduled two meetings with the boating community and other stakeholders to discuss this issue. The first workshop was held in Los Angeles on July 20, 2006, and included 37 participants from the boating community. Information was presented on boating education requirements in other states and the impact these requirements have had on boating safety. We also briefly explored the many options available in crafting such a law including the examples of other states. The general consensus of the meeting participants was qualified support for moving forward to craft proposed legislation.

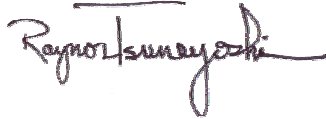
The next workshop will build on the progress made in Los Angeles. It is scheduled for August 17, 2006 at the Clarion Hotel, Terrace Room, 700 16th Street, in Sacramento, Phone: (916) 444-8000. SuperShuttle service is available from the Sacramento International Airport for about \$15.00. Free parking is available at the hotel.

If you or your association is interested in attending the Sacramento meeting, please call Margarita Sanchez at (916) 263-4330 or e-mail her at msanchez@dbw.ca.gov. Prior to the meeting, a packet of information will be mailed to all persons planning to attend. All materials for this meeting, as well as minutes from the previous meeting, will be available on our Website at www.dbw.ca.gov/BoaterEdReq.asp.

Please notify Margarita if you would like to speak at the meeting. If you represent an organization, please designate one spokesperson so that there will be an opportunity for many viewpoints to be heard.

A proposed agenda for the meeting is attached. We look forward working with you to improve boating safety in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Raynor Tsuneyoshi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line above the first part of the name.

Raynor Tsuneyoshi
Director

RT:dj:ms

Attachment

This location is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodation (accessible seating, documentation in accessible formats, etc.) are requested to contact Margarita Sanchez at 916-263-4330, at least 10 days prior to the meeting date.

DEPARTMENT OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS

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Agenda
Boating Safety Education Law
Stakeholder/Workshop Meeting

August 17, 2006
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Clarion Hotel, Terrace Room
700 16th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Welcome and Background – Raynor Tsuneyoshi, Director, Department of Boating and Waterways

- Purpose of the stakeholder meetings.
- Background of boating safety education in California.
- Summary of July 20 meeting in Los Angeles

Introductory Discussion and Agenda – Heidi Kolbe, Facilitator

- Names and organizations represented.
- Interest in this meeting and topic.
- Discussion plan.

National Transportation Safety Board Report – Bill Gossard

- National perspectives on boating safety.

Building on the Previous Meeting: – Steven Andersen, NewPoint Group

- Overview of “State Boating Safety Education Laws and Requirements Digest.”
- Research and refinement from previous meeting.

Legislation Options for Consideration – Heidi Kolbe, Facilitator

- Group discussion of information packet (to be sent/reviewed in advance).
- Discussion of specific preferences.

Lunch Break (11:45 – 1:15)

Group Discussion of Specific Elements in Boating Education Legislation – Heidi Kolbe, Facilitator

- Review and evaluation of options.

Develop a Consensus Recommendation for California – Heidi Kolbe, Facilitator

- Summary conversation pulling elements into an overall recommendation.

Sponsorship of Legislation – David Johnson, Deputy Director, Department of Boating and Waterways

Next Steps – Heidi Kolbe, Facilitator

- Identification of additional information needed.

Closing - Raynor Tsuneyoshi, Director, California